

Message Text

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FOR EUR/NE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 267047

1. BASED ON OUR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND A CONVERSATION WITH AN MFA OFFICIAL, WE LIST THE FOLLOWING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTLY OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DENMARK:

(A) DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (DANSK FLYGTNINGEHJAELP), AN AMALGAMATION OF 12 HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVE IN REFUGEE MATTERS SINCE THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION OF 1956. IT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK AND HAS CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE GOVERNMENT BOTH ON REFUGEE MATTERS IN GENERAL AND IN MAKING DECISIONS IN INDIVIDUAL REFUGEE CASES.

(B) DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) OCCASSIONALLY PROTESTS BLATENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OCCURRING IN EASTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE. THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LO AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS MADE THEIR PROTESTS MORE EFFECTIVE.

(C) DANISH SECTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EAR OF MINISTER LISE OSTERGAARD, AND DOUBTLESS INFLUENCES DANISH ATTITUDES TOWARD COUNTRIES WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ABUSED.

(D) INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS IS A NON-PARTISIAN, NON-RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH THE OPPRESSION OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN VARIOUS COJNTRIES -- INCLUDING GREENLAND ESKIMOS. THE IWGIA

WAS A SPONSOR OF THE VANCOUVER WORLD CONFERENCE OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TWO YEARS AGO.

(E) P.E.N., THE WRITERS ORGANIZATION, IS NOT TOO
ACTIVE IN DENMARK, BUT IS LISTENED TO WHEN ITS VOICE
IS RAISED.

(F) SAKHAROV COMMITTEE, A PRIVATE DANISH ORGANIZATION
PUBLICIZING SUPPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS IN
EASTERN EUROPE, HAS LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE DANISH
GOVERNMENT BUT SPONSORED THE DANISH SAKHAROV HEARINGS
IN DENMARK IN 1975 AND 1976. IT IS SPONSORING THE
HEARINGS SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD IN ROME IN LATE
NOVEMBER 1977. THE COMMITTEE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE
EXCHANGE OF CORVALAN AND BUKOUSKI.

2. THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL MINOR GROUPS CONCERNED
WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM IN EASTERN EUROPE.
THEY HAVE SMALL MEMBERSHIPS BOUND BY COMMON
ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS TIES, SUCH AS THE LEAGUE OF
TOLERANCE, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH THE PLIGHT OF
SOVIET JEWS.
DEAN

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